

April 12, 2011 Water Supply Forecast Discussion

This forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of April 12, 2011.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir/B120UP>

Forecast Summary:

The projected median April-July runoff now ranges from 128 percent (Shasta Lake, Total Inflow) to 184 percent (Kern River). The forecasts reflect a fairly dry April thus far as they decreased over 2 percent, on average, and ranged from a 4 percent decrease on several northern rivers to a 4 percent increase on the Kaweah River.

Runoff:

For all rivers forecasted in this update, the current April unimpaired runoff rates (through the 12th) are at or above 135 percent of their monthly average. The Tule and Kern rivers are flowing above 215 percent of their April averages.

Precipitation:

As of April 13th, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index reflects a monthly total of 0.5 inches (13 percent of April average) and a seasonal total of 61.5 inches, which is 142 percent of average to date and 123 percent of an average water year. The San Joaquin 5-Station Index shows a monthly total of 0.8 inches (23 percent of April average) and a seasonal total of 56.8 inches, which is 162 percent of average to date and 139 percent of an average water year.

Snowpack:

According to this morning's (April 14th) snow sensor data, statewide snowpack stands at 45 inches (159 percent of the April 1 average and 168 percent of average to date). If dryer conditions prevail throughout the spring months, the statewide seasonal peak would have occurred around March 30th with a snowpack of 48 inches (165 percent of the April 1 average).

Regionally, the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack is 165, 157, and 152 percent of the respective April 1 averages.

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) 30-day (for April produced March 31st) and three-month (April through June produced March 17th) outlooks have not been updated since last Friday's Bulletin 120/Water Supply Index email.

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, indicates some chances for precipitation for the northern and central portions of the state during the next 4 days. Freezing levels currently range between 5,500 in the Northern Sierra and 10,000 feet in the Southern Sierra. These levels will rise over the next 3 days and then fall back to the current range by day 6.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 forecast update will be produced for conditions on April 19, 2011, and will be available by Thursday, April 21, 2011. If you need guidance before then, or have any questions, please contact us:

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Important Links**Full Natural Flow Data:**

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

2011 WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>